## **BEFORE**

## THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF

## SOUTH CAROLINA

DOCKET NO. 97-239-C - ORDER NO. 2003-210

APRIL 2, 2003

Proceeding to Establish Guidelines for an IN RE:

Intrastate Universal Service Fund.

ORDER GRANTING

REQUEST TO EXTEND

DEADLINE FOR FILING

TARIFFS ASSOCIATED

WITH THE STATE

UNIVERSAL SERVICE

**FUND** 

This matter comes before the Public Service Commission of South Carolina ("Commission") on the request of Alltel South Carolina, Inc. ("Alltel" or "Company") for an extension of time in which to file tariffs associated with the State Universal Service Fund as set out in Commission Order No. 2001-996, dated October 10, 2001, requiring the participating companies to file their tariffs associated with the South Carolina Universal Service Fund (USF) no later than April 1 of each year.

Commission Order No. 2001-996 sets out the guidelines and administrative procedures for the USF, and provides that after the Initial Phase, on April 1 of each year, beginning in 2003, each ILEC receiving USF support may file tariff reductions and request additional USF support to fund the continued removal of implicit support contained in rates. Such filings will be considered by the Commission and a decision rendered by September 1 of the same year for inclusion in the state USF as sized each October 1. Additionally, Order No. 2001-996 provides that companies seeking rate reductions shall also file detailed cost data clearly demonstrating that implicit support exists in the rates that are proposed to be reduced. Any such tariff filings shall be made by April 1, 2003 and the Commission's decision will be rendered by August 1, 2003.

By its counsel's letter of March 18, 2003, Alltel filed with the Commission a request that the Commission extend the April 1, 2003 deadline to file its tariffs associated with the USF. Alltel respectfully requests a thirty (30) day extension be granted to file the Company's related tariffs and accompanying cost data. Thus, to the extent Alltel wishes to file a tariff and cost data for the State USF implementation, Alltel states that the filing would be made no later than May 1, 2003.

Alltel asserts in its request that although the Commission has not issued an Order approving the filings made last year in the present docket, Alltel believes it is likely that the Commission will issue an Order on those filings by May 1, 2003. According to Alltel, should the Commission issue its Order during this time it would perhaps provide additional guidance concerning the USF filings. Alltel adds further that granting a thirty (30) day extension should not significantly impair the Commission's ability to implement additional USF funding, to the extent any such additional funding is requested by October 1, 2003.

The Commission finds and concludes that Alltel's request for an extension of time to file the Company's tariffs and accompanying cost data associated with the USF should be granted.

## IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED THAT:

- 1. The deadline of April 1, 2003, as set forth in Commission Order No. 2001-996, shall be extended to May 1, 2003, for Alltel South Carolina, Inc. to file the Company's tariffs and accompanying cost data associated with the South Carolina Universal Service Fund.
- 2. This Order shall remain in full force and effect until further Order of the Commission.

Mignon L. Clyburn, Chairman

ATTEST:

Gary E. Walsh, Executive Director

(SEAL)